IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In the example scenario illustrated in Figure 12, it is assumed that an outbound signaling message has been sent to sDCM **400** from another communication module in a signaling gateway routing node according to an embodiment of the present invention. ~~As if, for~~ For instance, LIM **276** may internally route a signaling message to sDCM **278** via IMT bus **274**, as shown in Figure 3. In any event, it will be appreciated that a signaling message is received by sDCM **400** via IMT bus **402**, as indicated in Figure 12. The received signaling message requires routing instructions before transmission to a destination node can be performed, and as such the routing database **420** must be accessed. As indicated in Figure 12, the signaling message is eventually received by the SS7IPGW application layer **412**, which subsequently requests routing information from the routing database **420**. Using information contained within the outbound signaling message, one or more of the routing key tables provisioned in the routing database are accessed. More particularly, the sequence in which the dynamic and static routing key tables **422** and **424**, respectively, are accessed is a key component of the present invention. As indicated in Figure 14, dynamic routing key table **422** is accessed first. If a routing key is not found in dynamic routing key table **422** that matches the relevant information contained in the outbound signaling message, then a secondary or default routing key lookup is initiated in the static routing key table **424**, as generally illustrated in Figure 13.--